

the smokestacks and a third and larger piece was thrown straight across the quarter deck. If any of the heavy guns had fired, the truck carrying the shells would have been destroyed. The consequences would have been serious. The gun which exploded was of the ordinary six inch, 50-caliber sort, mounted on the Missouri and sister ships. The cause of the explosion has been a tedious target practice and the accident today is just unexplained. G. B. Bradshaw, first assistant target practice inspector, was standing by the breech of the gun when the explosion occurred. He is unable to account for the accident. It was his first thought that the tampion or protecting plug, had been left in the muzzle, but this was